

I-64 Incident Command Monthly Report March 2008

AM and PM Peak Periods

Rush Period

- Morning = 6:30-8:30 a.m.
- Evening = 4-6 p.m.

Incidents/Weather

Overall, in March, there were 1233 incidents impacting traffic or in the lane, an increase over February and January 2008. These incidents included stalls, crashes, abandoned vehicles, and vehicle fires. In addition to the vehicle related incidents, the following significant incidents impacted traffic patterns.

1. **On March 4 and 5** – A winter storm impacted the a.m. and p.m. rush hours on the 4 and continued through the 5.
2. **On March 20** – the flooding in Eureka and Valley Park caused lane closures of Route 141 at I-44, impacting p.m. rush hour travel in the region south of I-64. A crash on I-270 south of I-44 during p.m. rush hour contributed to the delays around the Valley Park lane restrictions.
3. **On March 21** – flooding in Eureka and Valley Park. The region was significantly impacted while crews placed barriers and sandbags along I-44 west of Route 141. Other area routes closed in the region caused impacts to travel for both a.m. and p.m. rush periods.
4. **On March 25** – on eastbound I-64, the Spirit of St. Louis bridge was struck by a boom truck, damaging the bridge and causing delays in this area towards the end of a.m. rush hours.

With traffic volumes relatively stabilized, the main contributing factor that impacts the freeways is incidents. Specifically, I-270 has seen an increase in traffic volumes and any incident can severely and has impacted travel times for that rush period.

Interstates

MoDOT is monitoring the northbound and southbound I-270 ramps to westbound I-64. Drivers seem to be having difficulties navigating the additional lanes. The message on the message board was changed March 6 to assist motorists. Observations are showing a marginal improvement in driver weaving behaviors. Further study of the vehicle counts has been initiated.

MoDOT is also working on Variable Speed Limit (VSL) project along I-270 and I-255 to mitigate traffic congestion issues. The first of the VSL signs has been installed and turned on to traffic. This is expected to be fully functional by early May.

The following segments are a representation of the traffic volume changes and travel times during the a.m. and p.m. rush periods. Attached are detailed charts for each interstate. **Travel times compared to January and February 2008 are relatively the same. All increases in the average upper limit are attributed to incidents.**

Summary of Morning Rush Period:

Segment	% Volume Change			Peak Hr Vol				Travel Times					
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Before	Jan	Feb	March	Before January		February		March	
I-270 westbound at Chain of Rocks	30%	15%	30%	4099	5231	4694	5376	10min	9-11min	10-13min		9-13min	
I-270 northbound from I-55 to I-44	10%	5%	5%	4620	4990	4989	4966	6min	6-10min	6-10min		6-16min	
I-270 northbound from I-44 to I-64	25%	20%	20%	4778	5953	5800	5840	7min	7-9min	7-10min		7-10min	
I-255 eastbound at Jefferson Barracks	80%	70%	75%	1088	1976	1856	1885	4min	4min	4min		4min	
I-70 eastbound from I-270 to I-170	15%	10%	-5%	3236	3759	3610	3049	4min	4min	4-5min		4min	
I-70 eastbound from I-170 to downtown	-5%	-15%	-10%	4421	4113	3780	3677	11min	11-16min	11-23min		11-15min	
I-44 eastbound from I-270 to downtown	-20%	-20%	-25%	3590	2902	2948	2727	16min	14min	14-15min		14-16min	

Summary of Evening Rush Period:

Segment	% Volume Change			Peak Hr Vol				Travel Times			
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Before	Jan	Feb	March	Before January	February	March	
I-270 eastbound at Chain of Rocks	40%	30%	40%	4398	6148	6082	6034	12min	12-22min	13-28min	12-29min
I-270 southbound from I-64 to I-44	5%	5%	-5%	5366	5629	5053	5230	9min	7-19min	7-23min	7-26min
I-255 eastbound at Jefferson Barracks	-45%	-45%	-40%	2693	1548	1459	1557	4min	4min	4min	4min
I-70 westbound from I-270 to I-170	60%	60%	60%	2875	5043	5005	5093	4min	4min	4-6min	4-6min
I-70 westbound from I-170 to downtown	-20%	-20%	-10%	5357	4409	4198	4128	12min	11-18min	11-21min	11-15min
I-44 westbound from I-270 to downtown	20%	15%	10%	3992	4674	4616	4455	16min	14-16min	14-16min	14-25min

I-70 Reversible Lanes

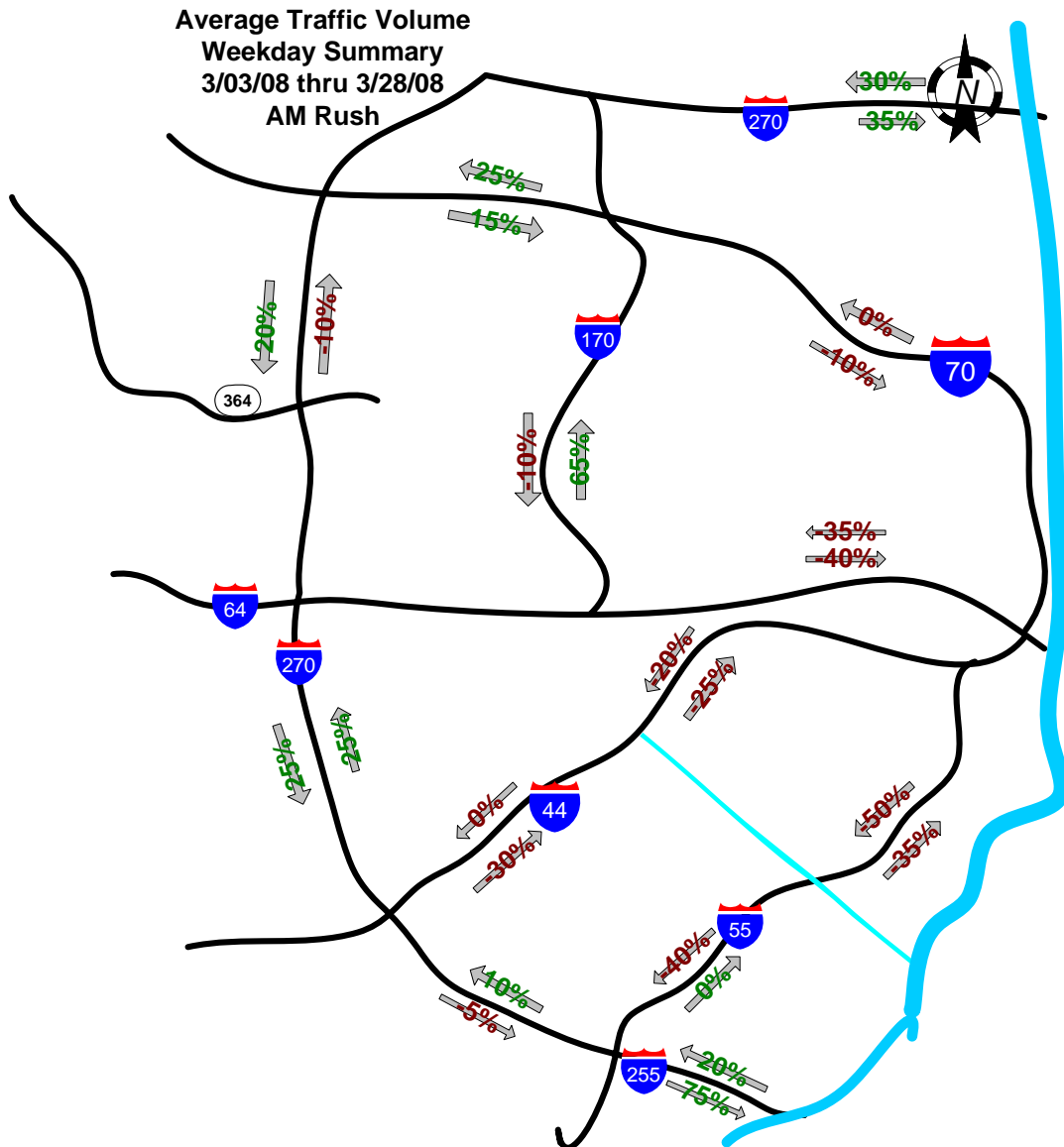
The reversible lanes on I-70 have traditionally operated in the eastbound direction during the a.m. hours, and in the westbound direction during the p.m. hours. Their operation was switched on January 8 to mitigate significant travel delays in the westbound direction during the a.m. peak, and in the eastbound direction during the p.m. peak. On holidays and snow events, the reversible lanes are set in the eastbound direction.

The volumes and travel times for March continue to support the decision of the direction of the reversible lanes. Volumes decreased in March in both directions compared to the previous two months. These volumes are the amounts over a four-hour rush period.

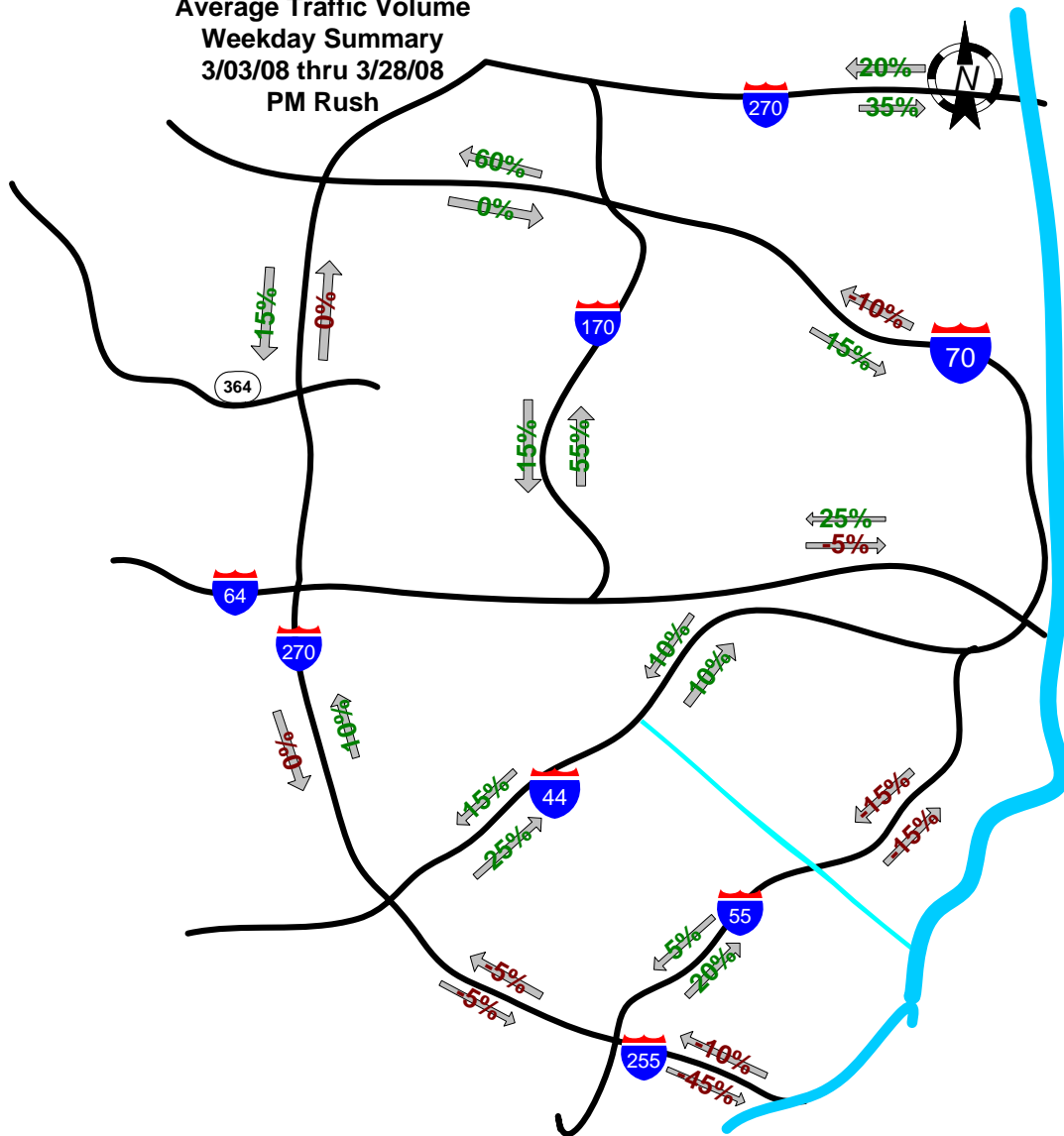
- Westbound a.m. volume was 1400 vehicles higher than eastbound a.m. volume, an average of 350 vehicles per each hour during the peak rush period.
- Eastbound p.m. volume was 1900 vehicles higher than westbound p.m. volume, an average of 475 vehicles per each hour during the peak rush period.

Regional Average Traffic Volume Comparisons

Following are map views of the Average Monthly Traffic Volumes (a.m. and p.m. rush periods) compared to average baseline volumes from October 2007. The percentage change was derived using data from MoDOT sensors and Traffic.com sensors.

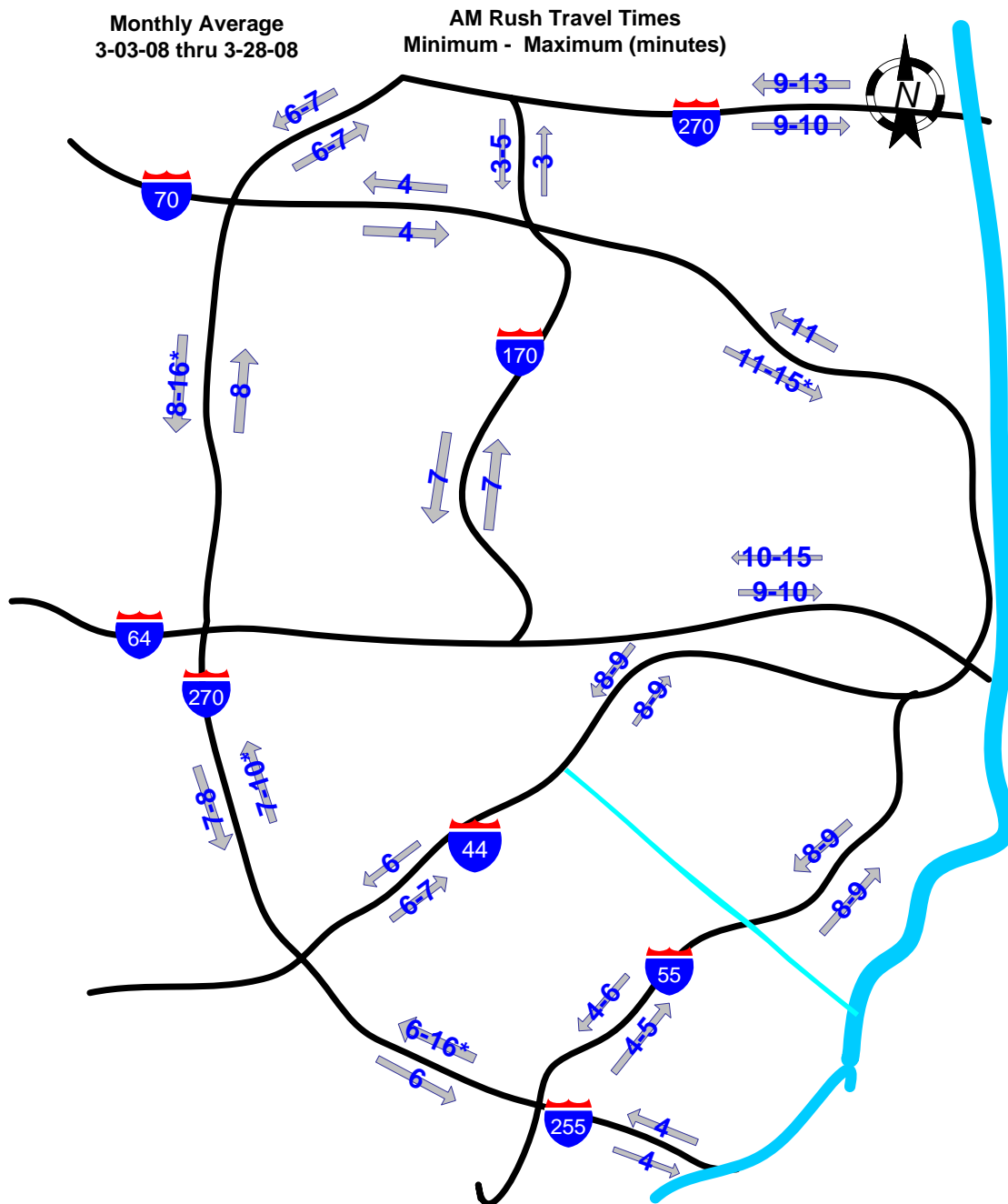


Average Traffic Volume
Weekday Summary
3/03/08 thru 3/28/08
PM Rush



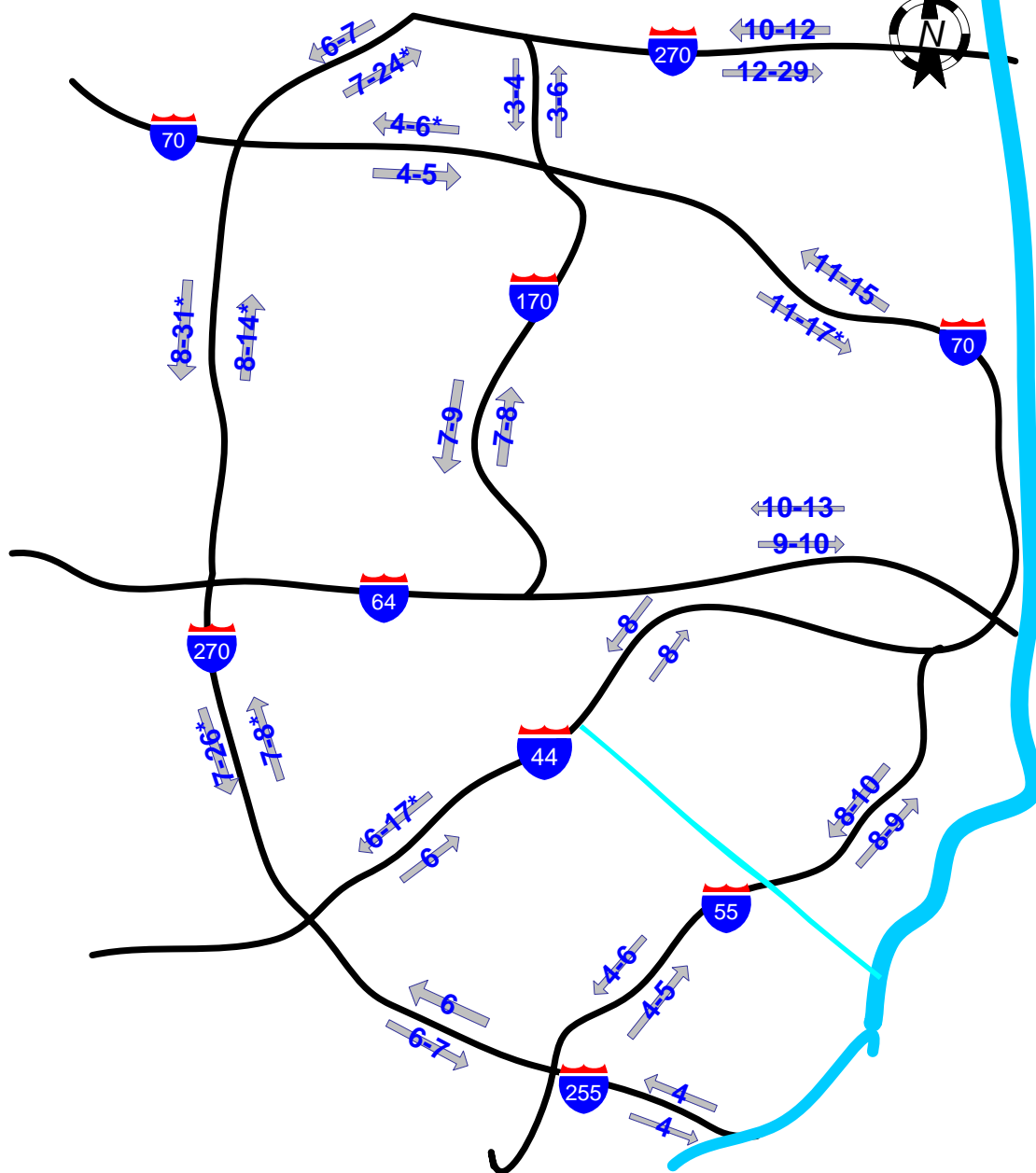
Regional Travel Times

Following are maps that depict the Average Travel Time experienced throughout the month of March. There is a map for the a.m. rush period and the p.m. rush period.



Monthly Average
3-03-08 thru 3-28-08

PM Rush Travel Times
Minimum - Maximum (minutes)



Arterials

The following segments are a representation of the traffic volume changes and travel times during the AM and PM rush periods. On the arterials, the peak travel times are from 7:30 – 8:30 during the AM peak and 4:30 to 5:30 during the PM peak.

Volumes

Summary of Morning Rush Period Volumes:			
Segment	Volume percent change	Peak Hr Vol	
		Before	March
Route 141 North of I-44	-3%	7400	7200
Page at Schuetz	10%	7300	8000
Olive at Ballas	60%	3100	5000
Manchester at Lindbergh	30%	3300	4300
Southbound Lindbergh at Manchester	300%	900	2600
Northbound Lindbergh at Manchester	-35%	2400	1600

Summary of Evening Rush Period Volumes:			
Segment	Volume percent change	Peak Hr Vol	
		Before	March
Route 141 North of I-44	-15%	8900	7700
Page at Schuetz	15%	8900	10200
Olive at Ballas	15%	6500	7500
Manchester at Lindbergh	15%	2600	3000
Southbound Lindbergh at Manchester	-50%	4300	2300
Northbound Lindbergh at Manchester	-65%	2300	800

Travel Times

Summary of Morning Rush Period Travel Times				
Segment	Travel Times at 7:30 AM		Travel Times at 6:30 AM	Time Saved by Shifting 1 hour
	Before	March	March	
Route 141 – 44 to 40/64	14 min	12 min	12 min	0 min
Page – 270 to 170	13 min	13 min	10 min	3 min
Olive – 141 to 170	22 min	21 min	13 min	8 min
Manchester – 141 to Hanley	25 min	22 min	17 min	5 min
SB Lindbergh – 70 to 44	25 min	23 min	20 min	3 min
NB Lindbergh – 44 to 70	29 min	29 min	25 min	4 min

Summary of Evening Rush Period Travel Times				
Segment	Travel Times at 4:30 PM		Travel Times at 3:30 PM	Time Saved by Shifting 1 hour
	Before	March	March	
Route 141 – 40/64 to 44	19 min	16 min	13 min	3 min
Page – 170 to 270	13 min	10 min	9 min	1 min
Olive – 170 to 141	20 min	19 min	17 min	2 min
Manchester – Hanley to 141	39 min	28 min	24 min	4 min
SB Lindbergh – 44 to 70	33 min	25 min	27 min	-2 min
NB Lindbergh – 70 to 44	29 min	25 min	25 min	0min

St. Louis County Highways and Traffic

The following compares the pre I-64 closure traffic volumes with the March traffic volumes on Clayton and Ladue Roads. Despite the increase in traffic volumes on these roads, the travel times have not increased.

Morning Rush Observations:

- Morning rush hour peak is from 8 to 9 a.m.
- **Clayton Road at Lay Road** – eastbound increased by 34% from 1,100 to 1,470 vehicles during the peak hour and westbound increased by 133% from 510 to 1,190 vehicles during the peak hour.
- **Ladue Road at Warson Road** – eastbound increased by 100% from 380 to 760 vehicles during the peak hour and westbound increased 67% from 450 to 750 vehicles during the peak hour.

Evening Rush Observations:

- Evening rush hour peak is from 5 to 6 p.m.
- **Clayton Road at Lay Road** – eastbound increased by 60% from 810 to 1,300 vehicles during the peak hour and westbound increased 66% from 930 to 1,540 vehicles during the peak hour.
- **Ladue Road at Warson Road** – eastbound increased by 46% from 570 to 830 vehicles during the peak hour and westbound increased by 110% from 410 to 860 vehicles during the peak hour.